

FISCAL MEMORANDUM

SB 3401 – HB 4002

May 12, 2008

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENTS (018216, 018403): Deletes all language after the enacting clause of the original bill. Expands the list of children eligible to attend a charter school to students in grades K-3 who are eligible for free and reduced price lunch and students who are under the jurisdiction of a juvenile court whom the court feels will benefit from a work experience and career exploration program. Requires local education agencies (LEAs) to send notification of eligibility to attend charter schools to parents of students who previously attended a charter school, are currently attending a school failing to meet adequate yearly progress goals, failed to test proficient on Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program tests (TCAP), or failed to test proficient on Gateway testing. Requires charter schools to enroll students who meet the free and reduced price lunch criteria (but no other) by a random selection process. Requires charter schools to send a list of these students to the LEA for verification of eligibility. Sunsets charter school provisions on July 1, 2015. Requires the Comptroller of the Treasury, in consultation with the Department of Education (DOE), and the State Board of Education, to appoint a task force to study the law and operation of charter schools. Task force shall make a report to the General Assembly by February 2, 2010.

FISCAL IMPACT OF ORIGINAL BILL:

Increase State Expenditures – Not Significant

FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENTS:

Increase State Expenditures – Not Significant

Increase Local Expenditures – Not Significant

Other Fiscal Impact: BEP funds will shift from local education agencies to public charter schools. Total amount shifted is dependent upon the number of students enrolling in public charter schools, the capacity of the charter school, and the number of enrollment slots.

Assumptions applied to amendments:

- Any increase in state expenditures for the appointment of a task force is estimated to be not significant.
- Expanding the number of eligible slots will not increase charter schools' capacity. Opening enrollment eligibility will not cause an increase in the number of available slots. Charter schools will not be forced by court order to admit more children.
- Any increase in local government expenditures to send notifications and to verify eligibility is estimated to be not significant.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James W. White". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" written in a smaller, more compact script than the last name "White".

James W. White, Executive Director

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